

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention is a “floating” intrusion detection system that can dynamically change which computers on the network are acting as intrusion detection platforms. A software agent program called a “socket” is installed on each computer that is to be available to be an intrusion detection platform. A central server contains intrusion detection software as well as a database containing knowledge based rules and profiles for detecting intrusions. The central server can contact any computer that has a socket installed and directed that computer to become an intrusion detection platform. The selected computer then downloads, installs, and runs the intrusion detection software thus becoming an intrusion detection platform. The present invention allows the system to respond to network attacks or to simply respond to increases in network traffic by increasing the number of intrusion detection platforms whenever necessary. Once the need has passed, the central server can direct some of the platforms to stop running the software and return to their normal state. If a particular segment of the network is being attacked, more intrusion detection platforms could be added in that area without ~~effecting~~affecting other areas of the network. The present invention also allows a company to make more efficient use of their computer hardware. A computer that is used for a print server or scanner station during the work day could become an intrusion detection system at night without any human direction.